



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Gaming Commission

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Massachusetts Gaming Commission Seeks Public Comment Regarding Proposed Pre-Qualification Regulations

Commission Schedules Three Public Hearings to Facilitate Public Participation in Multiple Regions

Today the Massachusetts Gaming Commission (MGC) announces that it is seeking public comment on proposed Phase 1 Regulations developed to pre-qualify gaming applicants in an effort to expedite the licensing process. MGC is offering a range of opportunities to encourage community involvement and professional feedback, including three public hearings scheduled simultaneously in three separate regions of the Commonwealth. The Phase 1 Regulations regulate the first “suitability” phase of the licensing process for operating a state gaming establishment.

MGC Chairman Steve Crosby stated, “Our mission is to establish expanded gaming across the state in a way that is fair, transparent and participatory. To achieve that goal, the Commission depends on consistent feedback from communities and stakeholders as we navigate this road to job creation, economic opportunities and increased revenue for the citizens of the Commonwealth. We encourage residents, business owners and public officials to take advantage of the opportunity to contribute to and influence outcomes. We are particularly interested in feedback on this pre-qualification process, developed in an effort to accelerate licensing.”

In keeping with the required law, MGC will hold public hearings concerning the Commission’s proposed promulgation of regulations, 205 CMR 101.00 to 117.00, governing hearings and practice before the Commission; access to and confidentiality of Commission records; the duties, authorities and responsibilities of the Commission’s investigation and enforcement bureau; and the first phase of the licensing process for operating a gaming establishment in Massachusetts pursuant to M.G.L. c. 23K, as enacted by Chapter 194 of the Acts of 2011 (collectively the “Phase 1 Regulations”).

In an effort to facilitate maximum participation, MGC will host three public hearings on September 10, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. in the following locations:

- The Boston Convention & Exhibition Center, 415 Summer St., Boston, MA, Room 102a
- Springfield Technical Community College, 1 Armory Square, Scibelli Auditorium, Springfield, MA
- The Conference Center at Massasoit Community College, 770 Crescent St., Brockton, MA

Under M.G.L. c. 23K, the licensing of gaming establishments will proceed in two phases. In Phase 1, the Commission will evaluate the qualifications and suitability of a gaming license applicant, its qualifiers and other persons required to be investigated in connection with the proposed issuance of a license to operate a gaming

establishment based, among other things, on an investigation of their “integrity, good character and reputation.” M.G.L. c. 23K, §12. In a later Phase 2, the Commission will review an applicant’s proposal for a specific gaming establishment based on statutory and regulatory criteria. The proposed Phase 1 Regulations proscribe the contents, process, fees, procedures and standards for the initial Phase 1 qualification stage of the licensing process for gaming licenses. In the future, the Commission will separately promulgate further regulations concerning the second phase of the licensing process for gaming licenses (Phase 2), focusing on the merits of an applicant’s proposed gaming establishment and other matters within the Commission’s jurisdiction, .

How to provide comment:

Copies of the proposed Phase 1 Regulations are available at www.mass.gov/gaming and at the Commission’s main office at **84 State Street, Suite 720, Boston, MA 02109**. Members of the public wishing to attend this public hearing who seek special accommodations in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact the Commission at (617) 979-8400 or janice.reilly@state.ma.us.

The public is also encouraged to submit written comments on the proposed Phase 1 Regulations. Please direct comments to Commissioner James F. McHugh, Massachusetts Gaming Commission, 84 State Street, Suite 720, Boston, MA 02109, james.mchugh@state.ma.us. Comments may also be submitted electronically to mgccomments@state.ma.us with “Phase 1 comments” in the subject line. **Written comments must be received by September 10, 2012 at 5:00 p.m.**

About MGC

The mission of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission is to create a fair, transparent, and participatory process for implementing the expanded gaming law passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor in November, 2011. In creating that process, the Commission will strive to ensure that its decision-making and regulatory systems engender the confidence of the public and participants, and that they provide the greatest possible economic development benefits and revenues to the people of the Commonwealth, reduce to the maximum extent possible the potentially negative or unintended consequences of the new legislation, and allow an appropriate return on investment for gaming providers that assures the operation of casino-resorts of the highest quality. For more information on MGC, please visit www.mass.gov/gaming or connect and share on Twitter (@MassGamingComm) or Facebook (www.facebook.com/MAGamingComm).

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